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STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND COORDINATION OF EFFORTS TO STUDY, MITIGATE AND MINIMIZE THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE CHERNOBYL DISASTER

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.67

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of the operative paragraphs of draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.67, the General Assembly would:

(a) Take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 46/150, 1/ and the recommendations contained therein on priority areas of international cooperation in studying, mitigating and minimizing the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster;

(b) Request the Secretary-General to continue the activities related to the follow-up to General Assembly resolutions 45/190 and 46/150, taking into consideration the subsequent social, economic and other changes that have occurred in the countries affected by the Chernobyl disaster;

(c) Also request the Secretary-General, in the light of his recommendations on priority areas, to undertake an analytical review of all United Nations activities to study, mitigate, and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster in those countries most affected, including related Secretariat arrangements, taking full account of ongoing programmes and other relevant activities, including those of regional and other organizations, and the principle of comparative advantage;

(d) Further request the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution, including the conclusions of the analytical review requested in paragraph 1 (c) above, and to submit an oral report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1993;

(e) Decide to consider at its forty-eighth session the question of the biennialization of this agenda item.

B. Relationship of the proposed requests to the approved programme of work

2. Coordination of activities related to addressing, mitigating and minimizing the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl powerplant is not included in the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. 2/ A related appropriation was approved, however, under section 1 for 1992 of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

C. Activities by which the proposed request would be implemented

3. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.67, the Secretary-General would continue the small unit established during 1991, for which an appropriation was approved for 1992, in order to assist the United Nations Coordinator in:

(a) Management of the United Nations Chernobyl Trust Fund;

(b) Coordination of related activities of the United Nations system through the Inter-Agency Task Force;

(c) Liaison with the national authorities concerned;

(d) Monitoring of assistance provided by the United Nations system, as well as bilaterally in the context of the Joint Plan in response to the Secretary-General's appeal;

(e) Revision and adjustment, as required, of the Joint Plan, in consultation with the national authorities concerned;

(f) Continuation of efforts to mobilize support from the private sector, non-governmental organizations and other entities;

(g) Establishment and maintenance of a database on bilateral and multilateral assistance activities, both planned and under way;

(h) Dissemination of information, in cooperation with the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat;

(i) Preparation of progress reports;

(j) Preparation of an analytical review of all United Nations activities including related Secretariat arrangements, taking full account of ongoing programmes and other relevant activities including those of regional and other organizations and the principle of comparative advantage.

D. Modifications required in the proposed programme of work for the biennium 1992-1993

4. As indicated in section B, the above-mentioned activities are not programmed and hence no modifications will be required in the proposed programme of work for the biennium 1992-1993.

E. Additional requirements at full cost

5. It is anticipated that should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.67, the activities outlined in section C above would require the services of a total of two Professional staff members (one at the P-5 level and one at the P-4 level) as well as one support staff from the General Service category (Other level). Provision would also be required for consultants, overtime, travel of staff, contractual translation and printing, supplies and general operating expenses. In respect of the requirements for travel of staff, provision would be required for (a) one journey by the Coordinator to Kiev, Minsk and Moscow, for about ten days; (b) attendance by the Coordinator at the substantive session of 1993 of the Economic and Social Council to be held in Geneva, for approximately five days; and (c) journeys by the Coordinator to Geneva to participate in two meetings of the Inter-Agency Task Force, each for about three days, and two visits by the Coordinator to Vienna.

6. On a full-cost basis, these additional requirements for 1993 are estimated at $362,300, according to the following breakdown:

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(a)	Consultants	19 600
(b)	Overtime	300
(c)	Temporary posts	209 300
(d)	Common staff costs	71 200
(e)	Travel of staff	29 500
(f)	Contractual services	22 600
(g)	General operating expenses	8 800
(h)	Supplies and materials	1 000
	Total	362 300

F. Potential for absorption

7. At the present stage, coordinating activities relating to the Joint Plan will require continued support from the regular budget. Although the Secretary-General, in his statement on programme budget implications of revised draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.30/Rev.1 (A/C.2/46/L.60), indicated that he proposed to seek to identify alternative financing from the United Nations Chernobyl Trust Fund or through contributions from parties, including organizations of the United Nations system, carrying out activities under the Joint Plan beyond 1992, the response to his appeal for contributions has been disappointing and sufficient funds are not available currently to absorb the estimated requirements for 1993.

8. As regards the Professional staffing requirements in 1993 (1 P-5 and 1 P-4), it is proposed that these be met by temporary redeployment of posts identified for redeployment through the continuing application of the new treatment of vacancies during 1993. To cover related requirements until such posts are identified, it is estimated that a provision of $114,600 will be needed for general temporary assistance, representing six work-months for the two posts. In addition it is proposed that a provision of $51,300 also be made under general temporary assistance to provide for twelve work-months in the General Service (Other level) category. Should there be any difficulty in identifying posts at the appropriate levels before 30 June 1993, a report would be submitted to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. Requirements for 1994 and beyond will be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

9. It is not anticipated that any of the other costs referred to in paragraph 6 above can be absorbed within the provisions under section 1 of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

G. Indication of additional requirements

10. Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.67, it is anticipated that net additional resources of $247,700 would be required, as follows:

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General temporary assistance	165 900
Consultants	19 600
Overtime	300
Travel of staff	29 500
Contractual services	22 600
General operating expenses	8 800
Supplies and materials	1 000
Total	247 700

H. Contingency fund

11. It will be recalled that under the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the proposed programme budget. Under that procedure, if additional expenditures are proposed that exceed the resources available from the contingency fund, the activities concerned can be implemented only through redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or modifications of existing activities. Otherwise, such additional activities will have to be deferred to a later biennium. A consolidated statement of all programme budget implications and revised estimates will be submitted to the General Assembly towards the end of the current session.

12. No activity has been identified for termination, deferral, curtailment or modification under section 1 of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. Should it not prove possible to meet the required costs from the contingency fund, the implementation of draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.67 may have to be postponed, as provided for in the criteria for use of the contingency fund adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 42/211 of 21 December 1987.

I. Summary

13. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.67, it is estimated that an additional non-recurrent appropriation of $247,700 would be required under section 1 of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

14. Furthermore, an additional appropriation of $34,700 would be required under section 36 (Staff assessment), to be offset by an increase in the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).

Notes

1/ A/47/322-E/1992/102 and addenda.

2/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/45/6/Rev.1), Vol. I.